

Remarks

Claims 1-15 are pending in the subject application. By this Amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 3, 10, and 12-15, amended claims 1, 4, 5, 8, and 11, and added new claims 16-23. Support for the new claims can be found, for example, at page 4, lines 30-31, page 5, lines 19-27, and page 11, lines 10-13, of the subject specification. Entry and consideration of the amendments and new claims presented herein is respectfully requested. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11, and 16-23 are currently before the Examiner. Favorable consideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

The submission of new pages 14-17 is being made to correct inadvertent typographical errors in the References section of the subject application. Entry of the new pages 14-17 in the specification is respectfully requested. Claim 8 has also been amended to correct a typographical error.

As an initial matter, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 3, 4, 10, and 11 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten into independent form to include the limitations of any base and intervening claims.

Claims 1, 2, and 5-9 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over Schinazi *et al.* (WO 96/22778), Hart *et al.* (1995), and Budt *et al.* (1995) in view of Torres *et al.* (1997) and Johnson *et al.* (1994). In addition, claims 12-15 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over Torres *et al.* (1997) in view of Budt *et al.* (1995). The Examiner asserts that the Schinazi *et al.* reference discloses methods for treating FIV using nucleoside analogues, the Hart *et al.* reference teaches methods for treating FIV infected cats by oral administration of AZT, and that the Budt *et al.* reference discloses that the compound HBY-793 is a known HIV protease inhibitor. The Examiner cites the Torres *et al.* reference as disclosing the combined use of AZT, another nucleoside analog (3TC), and a protease inhibitor for treating HIV infection in humans. The Johnson *et al.* reference is cited as teaching that FIV closely resembles HIV in genomic organization, protein composition, and morphology. The Examiner asserts that in view of the references teaching the use of combination therapy to treat HIV, and the similarity between HIV and FIV, it would have been obvious to use the claimed combination therapy to treat FIV infection. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants respectfully assert that the claimed invention is not obvious over the cited references, regardless of whether the references are taken alone or in combination. In particular, Applicants respectfully assert that the use of compounds in humans to treat HIV infection does not necessarily mean that the same compounds will be successful in treating FIV infection in felines. However, in order to expedite prosecution of the subject application, Applicants have amended claim 1 and claim 5 to recite the limitation of claim 3 and claim 10, respectively. Applicants note that claims 3 and 10 were not included under either of the §103 rejections and that the Examiner indicated these claims as containing allowable subject matter. Thus, claims 1 and 5, and those claims dependent therefrom, should be allowable. In addition, Applicants have canceled claims 12-15, thereby rendering the rejection of those claims moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC §103(a) is respectfully requested.

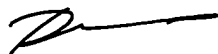
It should be understood that the amendments presented herein have been made solely to expedite prosecution of the subject application to completion and should not be construed as an indication of Applicants' agreement with or acquiescence in the Examiner's position.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments to the claims, Applicants believe that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 19-0065.

Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

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Attachments: Marked-Up Version of Amended Claims; New pages 14-17 (References) of the subject specification; Marked-Up Version of References pages.

Marked-Up Version of Amended Claims

Claim 1 (amended):

1. A method for treating or preventing infection of feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) in a feline animal, said method comprising administering to said feline animal an effective amount of azidothymidine (AZT) and another nucleoside analog, and wherein said feline animal receives bone marrow transplantation after total body irradiation.

Claim 4 (amended):

4. The method according to claim [3] 1, wherein the transplanted cells are selected from the group consisting of allogeneic cells and autologous cells.

Claim 5 (amended):

5. A method for treating or preventing infection of feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) in a feline animal, said method comprising administering to said feline animal an effective amount of azidothymidine (AZT), another nucleoside analog and an inhibitor of a retroviral protease, and wherein said feline animal receives bone marrow transplantation after total body irradiation.

Claim 8 (amended):

8. The method [accoding] according to claim 5, wherein said inhibitor of a retroviral protease is designated as HBY-793 and has the structure shown in Figure 4.

Claim 11 (amended):

11. The method according to claim [10] 5, wherein the transplanted cells are selected from the group consisting of allogeneic cells and autologous cells.

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